

# International Weather and Crop Summary

September 11 - 17, 2005

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

## HIGHLIGHTS

**EUROPE:** Widespread rain benefited reproductive to maturing summer crops in central and eastern areas, while dry weather worsened drought on the Iberian Peninsula.

**FSU-WESTERN:** Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to favor fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting.

**FSU-NEW LANDS:** Mostly dry weather aided spring grain harvesting in Kazakhstan and Russia.

**EASTERN ASIA:** Typhoon Khanun brought unwelcomed rain to cotton in eastern coastal provinces, while beneficial dry weather prevailed elsewhere.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Heavy showers in Indochina and the Philippines caused flooding in crop areas.

**SOUTH ASIA:** A pair of tropical disturbances coupled with a resurgent monsoon brought widespread, heavy rain to much of central and northern India.

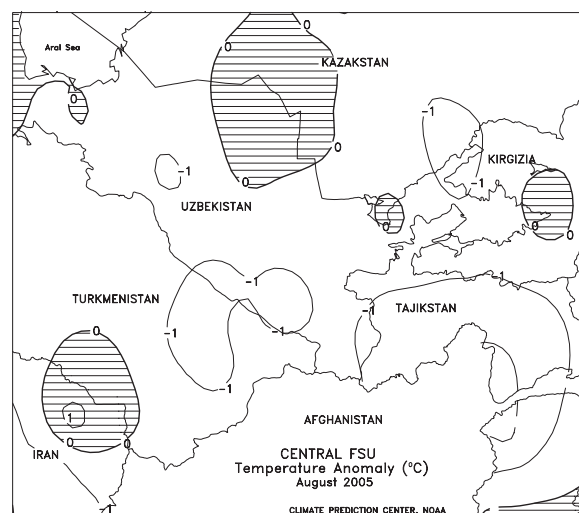
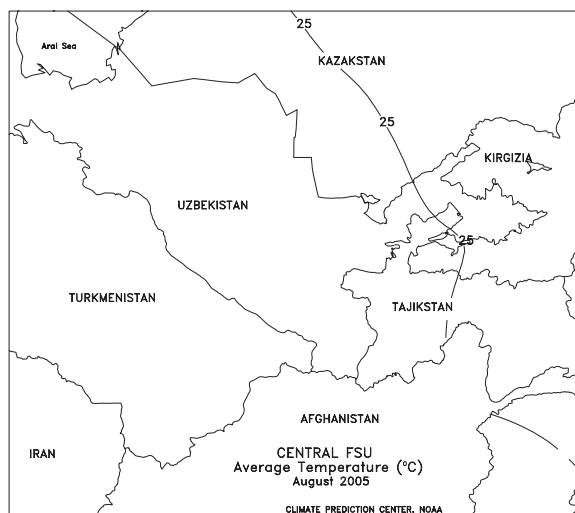
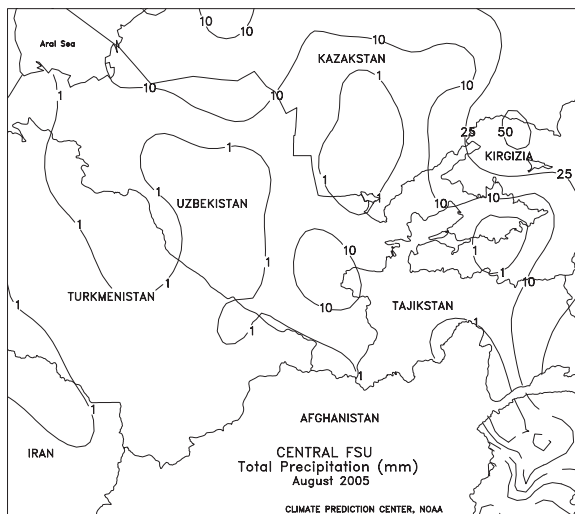
**AUSTRALIA:** Scattered showers and unseasonably cool weather maintained favorable conditions for winter grain development in the west and south, while rain in the east provided a timely boost in topsoil moisture for reproductive winter wheat and barley.

**CANADA:** Locally heavy showers lingered across the western Prairies, worsening harvest prospects.

**MEXICO:** Scattered showers benefited immature corn and other summer crops across the southern plateau.

**BRAZIL:** Coffee harvesting neared completion, but rain hampered winter wheat harvesting in the south.

**ARGENTINA:** Frost and freezing temperatures may have damaged reproductive winter wheat and emerged sunflowers.





## EUROPE

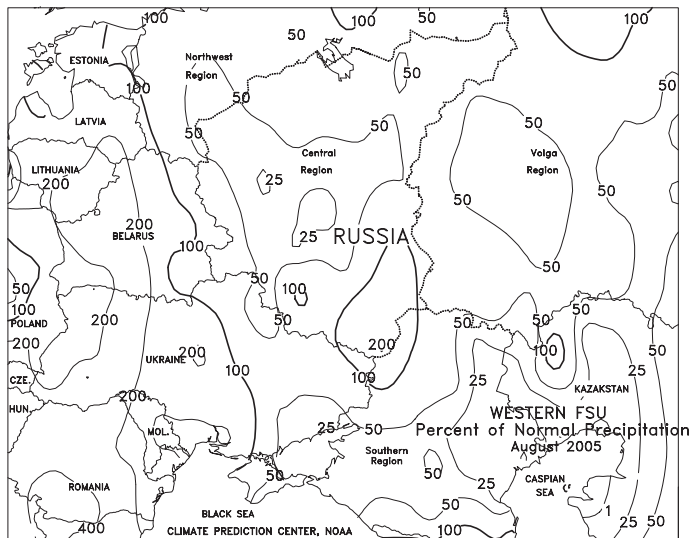
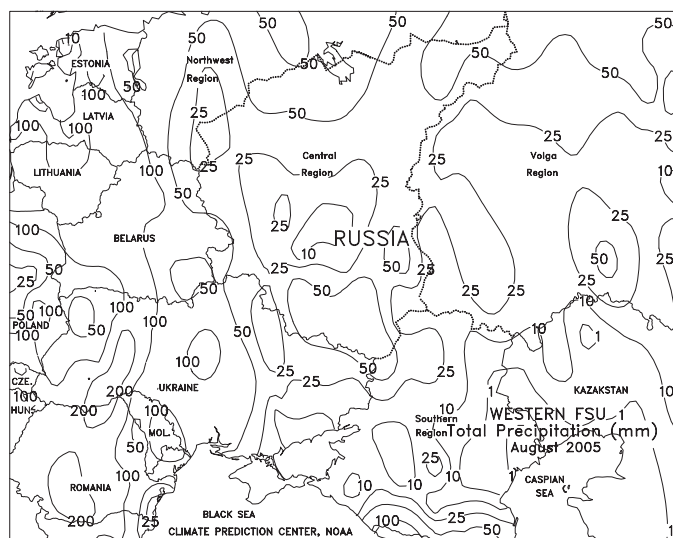
Widespread rain in central and eastern Europe contrasted with lingering dryness across the Iberian Peninsula. A pair of slow-moving cold fronts triggered locally heavy showers and thunderstorms (25-110 mm) across Germany and eastern France, boosting moisture reserves for reproductive to maturing summer crops. Lighter showers (5-50 mm) in central and western France maintained favorable conditions for filling corn, although more rain is needed to erase year-to-date rainfall deficits (greater than 100 mm) in western and southwestern growing areas. Mostly dry weather across the Iberian Peninsula worsened drought in Spain and Portugal, although isolated, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms (25-50 mm) in southeastern Spain benefited depleted reservoirs and groundwater reserves. Widespread showers (15-60 mm) across much of eastern Europe maintained favorable moisture supplies for vegetative to reproductive summer crops while conditioning fields for upcoming winter grain planting and establishment. In August, early-month showers slowed late spring grain harvesting across much of northern Europe, although drier weather by month's end allowed fieldwork to resume. Heavy rain (100-300 mm) across southern and southeastern Europe caused widespread flooding but maintained generally favorable summer crop prospects. Elsewhere, much-needed rain alleviated persistent dryness in southwestern France, while drought worsened on the Iberian Peninsula.



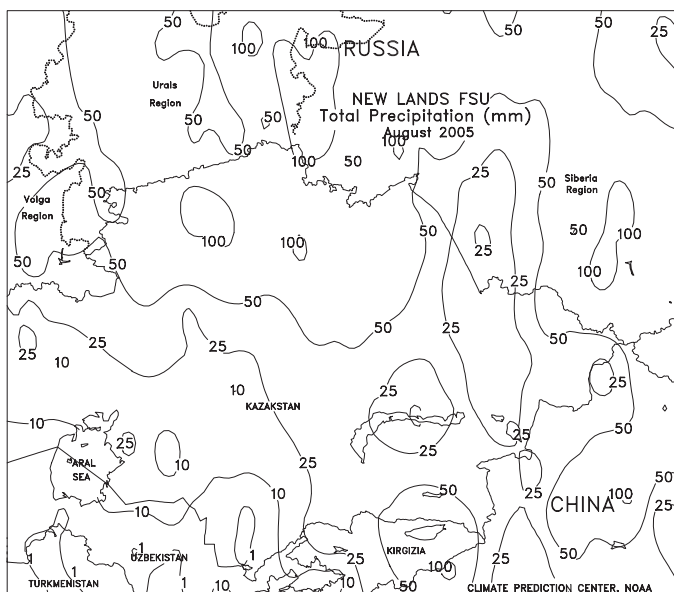
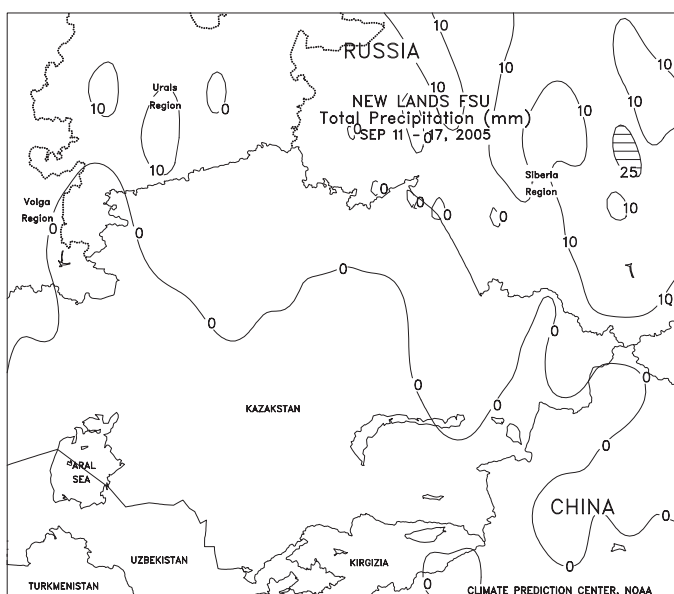


**FSU-WESTERN**

Unseasonably warm, dry weather prevailed throughout most of Russia and Ukraine, helping fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter grain planting. September is the optimum month for planting winter grains in Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia. From northern Belarus eastward across the northern half of the Central Region in Russia, light showers (10-25 mm or more) boosted topsoil moisture for winter grain germination and establishment. Reports from Ukraine as of September 14 indicated that winter wheat, rye, and rapeseed were 23, 23, and 74 percent planted, respectively. Planting of winter barley was just beginning. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in Belarus, 3 to 5 degrees C above normal in Ukraine, and 2 to 8 degrees C above normal in Russia. In August, small grain harvesting was well underway and planting of the 2006 winter grain crop began in northern Russia. In Russia, generally dry weather promoted small grain harvesting and winter grain planting across most of the Central and Volga Regions. However, topsoil moisture was becoming limited in these areas by month's end and rain was needed for winter grain germination. In the Southern Region in Russia, the combination of mostly dry weather and above-normal temperatures stressed corn and sunflowers in the filling stage of development but aided small grain harvesting. In Ukraine, well above-normal precipitation (100 - 400 percent of normal) in the western two-thirds of the country reversed a drying trend in July, improving growing conditions for filling summer crops and boosting soil moisture in advance of winter wheat planting. Unseasonably warm, dry weather prevailed across the remainder of Ukraine, especially southeastern areas, stressing summer crops in the filling stage.

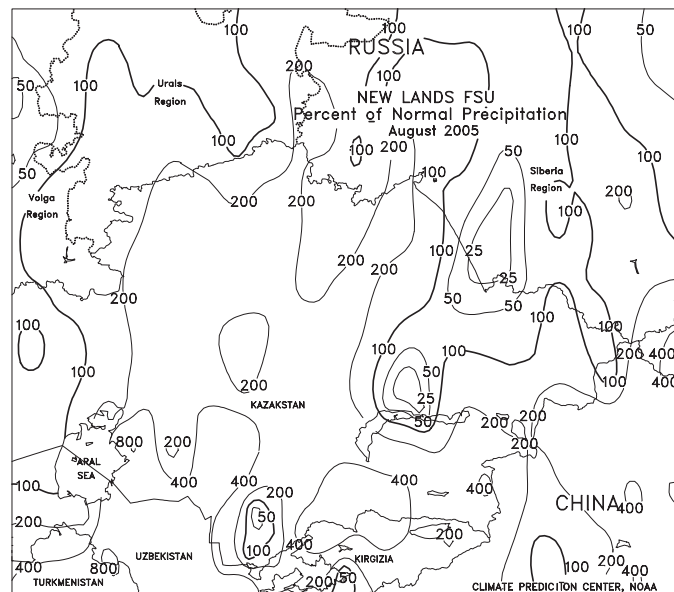


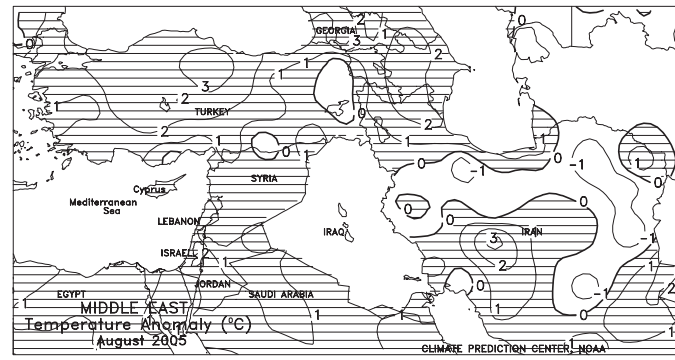
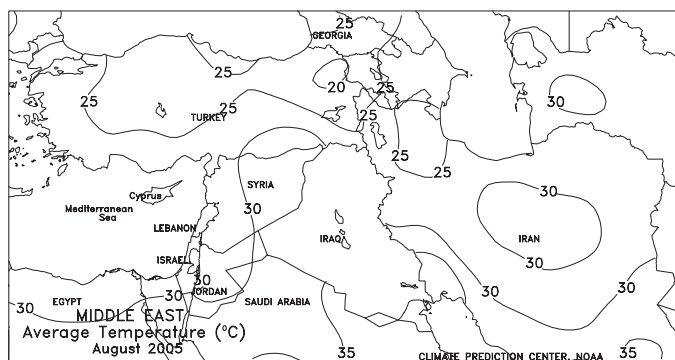
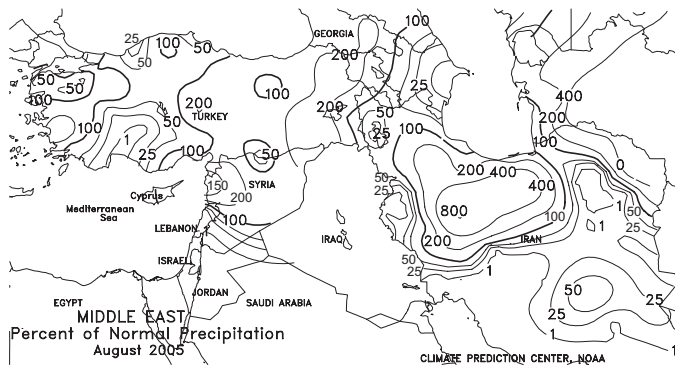
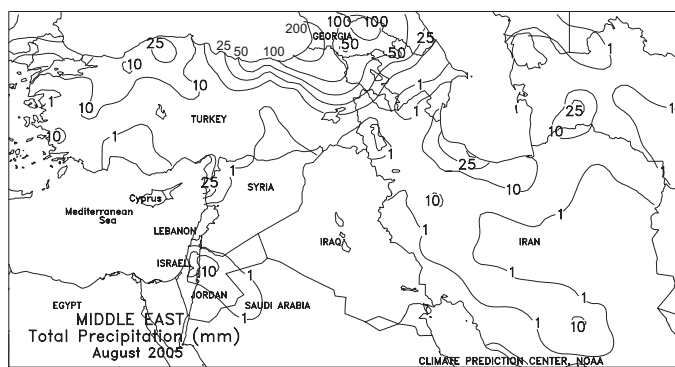
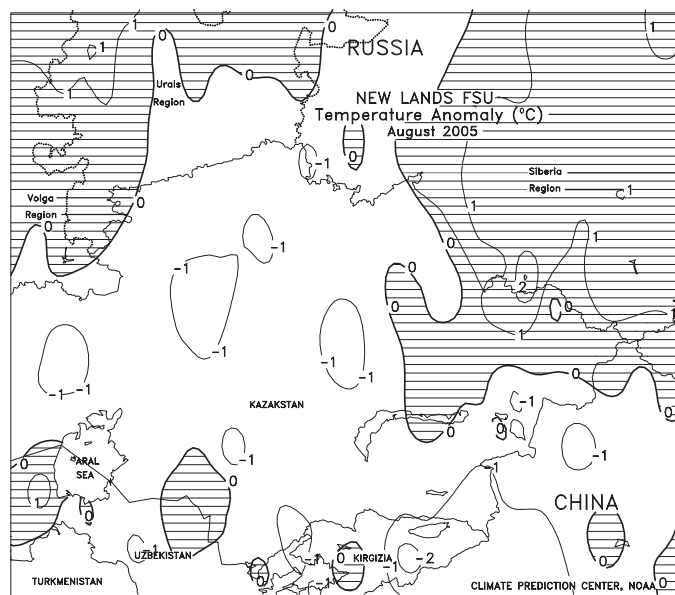
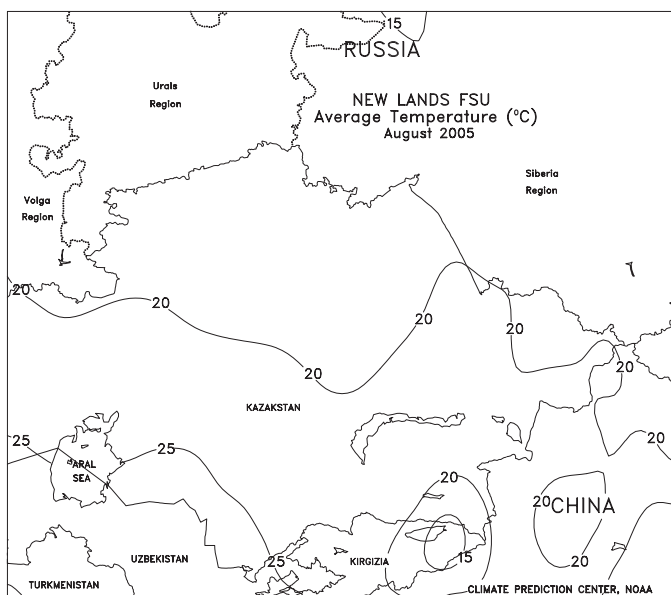


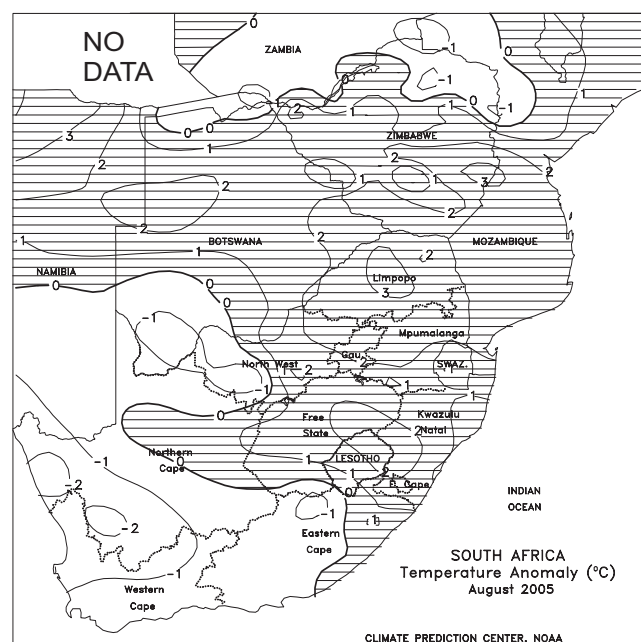
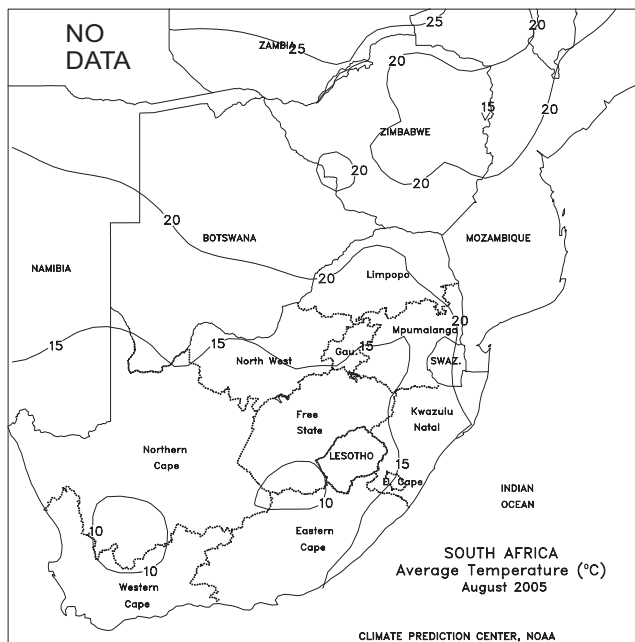
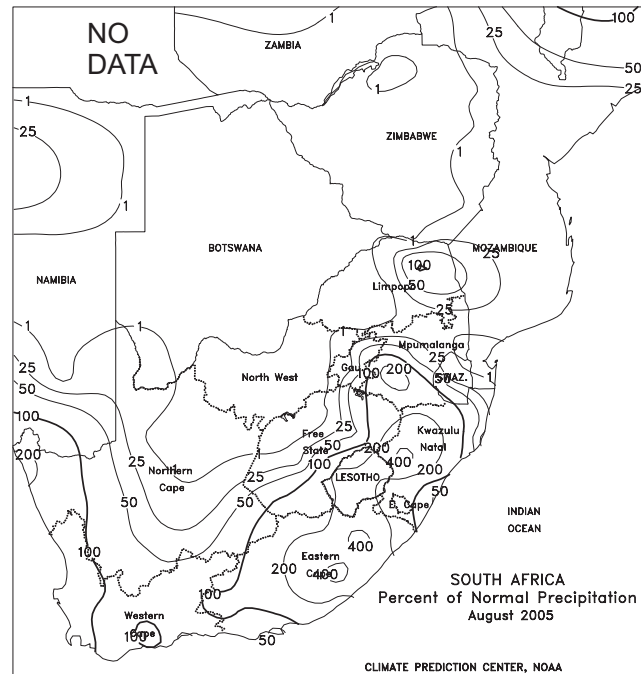
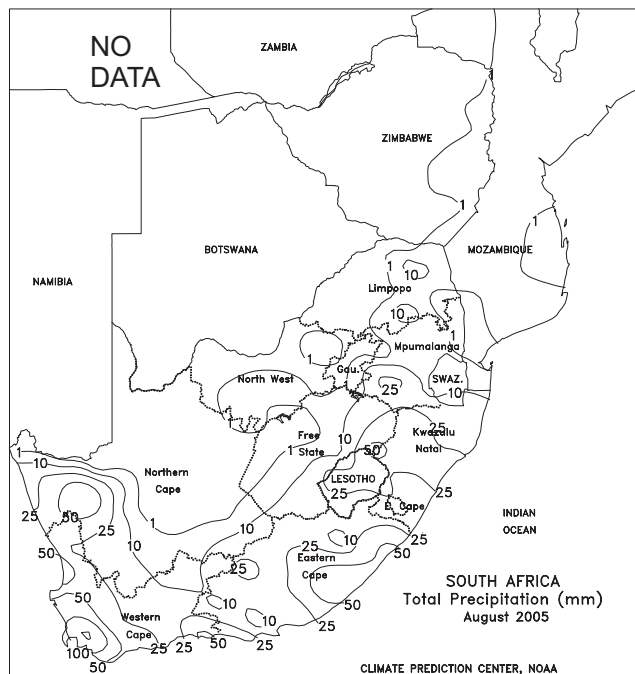
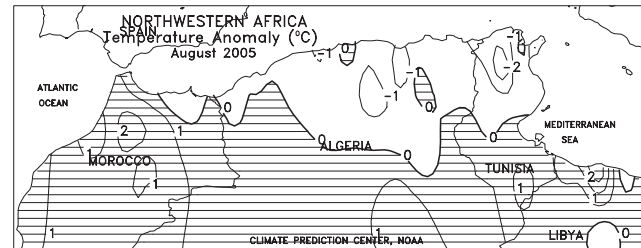
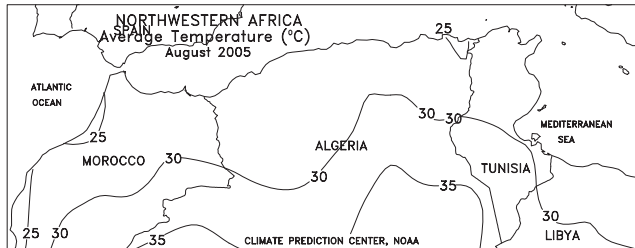
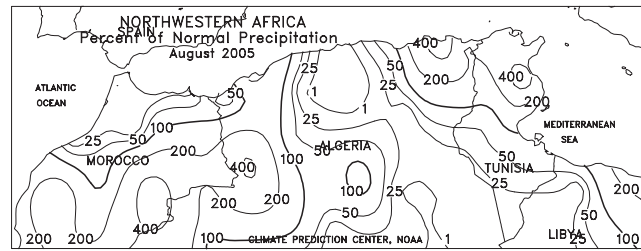
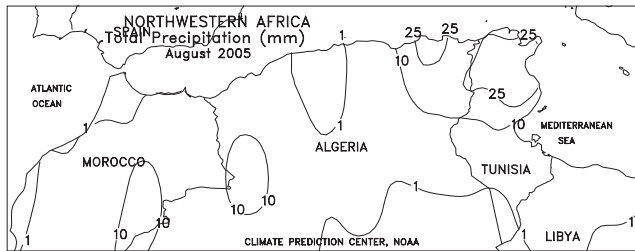


### FSU-NEW LANDS

Dry weather prevailed over most of Kazakhstan and Russia, aiding spring grain maturation and harvesting. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Kazakhstan and the Urals Region in Russia. In the Siberia Region in Russia, temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal. Furthermore, most locations recorded minimum temperatures below-freezing (-5 to -2 degrees C) on several days during the week, ending the 2005 growing season. In Russia, reports as of September 19 indicated that small grains and pulses, excluding corn, were 84 percent harvested. Sunflowers were 16 percent harvested. In cotton areas of Central Asia, unseasonably warm, dry weather favored boll maturation and early cotton harvesting. In August, near-to above-normal precipitation in most spring grain areas in Kazakhstan and Russia favored crops in the filling stage. The exception was central areas in Siberia, where below-normal precipitation was observed. In major spring grain areas in north-central Kazakhstan and western areas in Siberia, most of the precipitation fell during the second half of August.



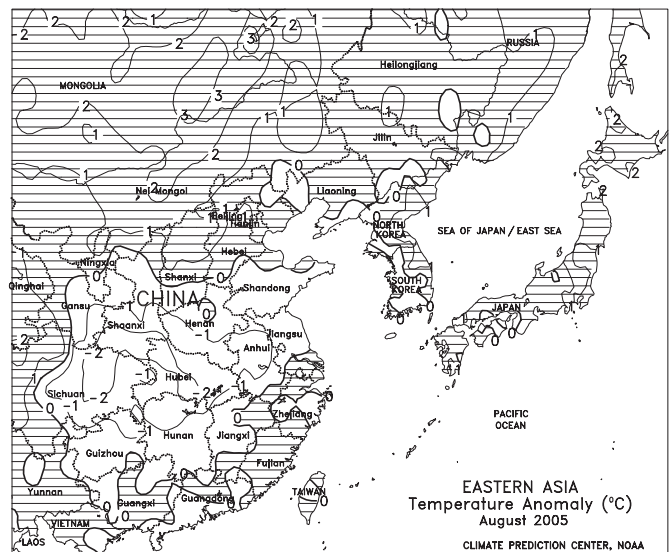
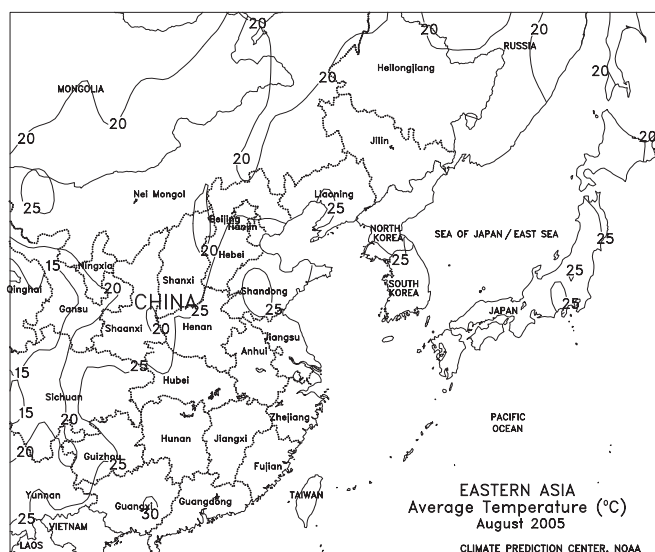
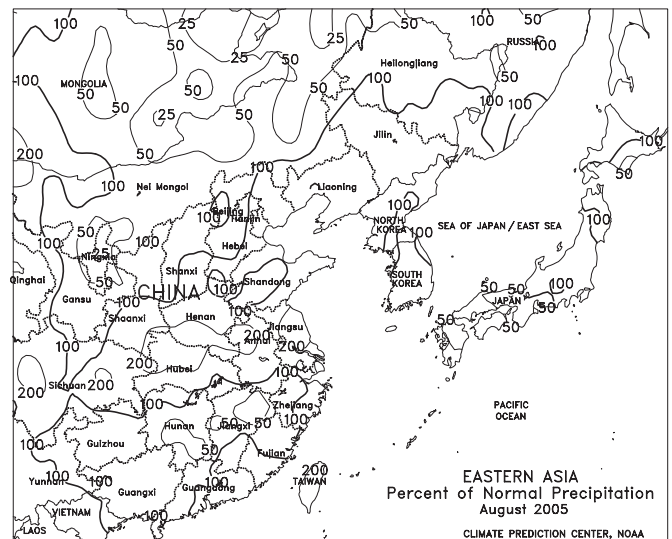
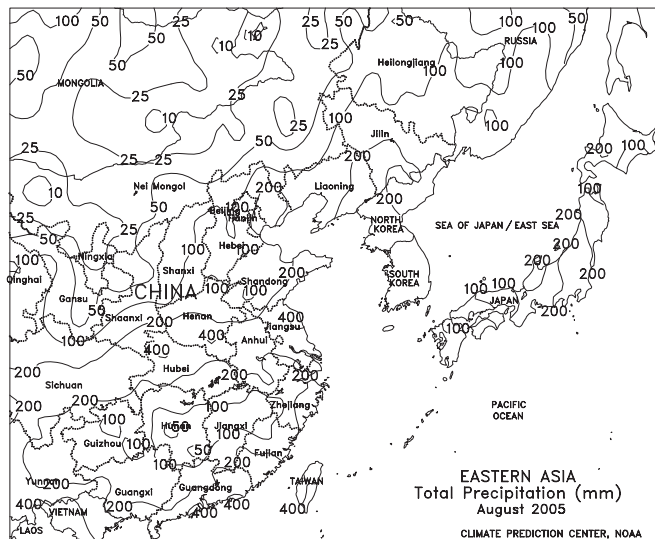




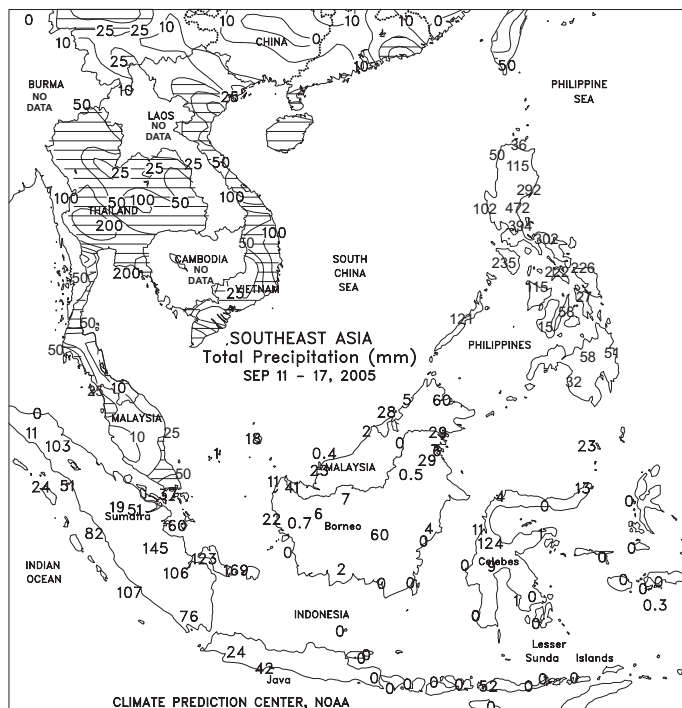


### EASTERN ASIA

Heavy showers (50-100 mm, locally more) from Typhoon Khanun fell from Shangdong to Zhejiang early in the week. The rain brought unwelcomed moisture to mature cotton and slowed harvesting. Generally dry, warm weather (1-5 degrees C above normal) prevailed throughout the rest of China, benefiting drydown of mature corn and soybeans as well as aiding harvesting. Elsewhere in the region, mostly dry weather in Japan helped alleviate excessive wetness, while heavy showers (50-200 mm) from Khanun fell in North Korea and parts of South Korea. In August, Typhoons Matsa, Sanvu, and Talim brought heavy showers to southeastern rice areas of China and threatened open cotton bolls in the Yangtze Valley. Near-normal rainfall prevailed on the North China Plain as corn, soybeans, and cotton entered maturation. Above-normal rainfall prevailed in primary summer crop areas of Manchuria, where corn and soybeans progressed through reproduction. Elsewhere in the region, Typhoons Mawar and Nabi struck Japan at the end of August, bringing heavy rainfall and likely causing flooding in rice areas of Honshu. Above-normal rainfall on the Korean Peninsula boosted moisture supplies for rice.

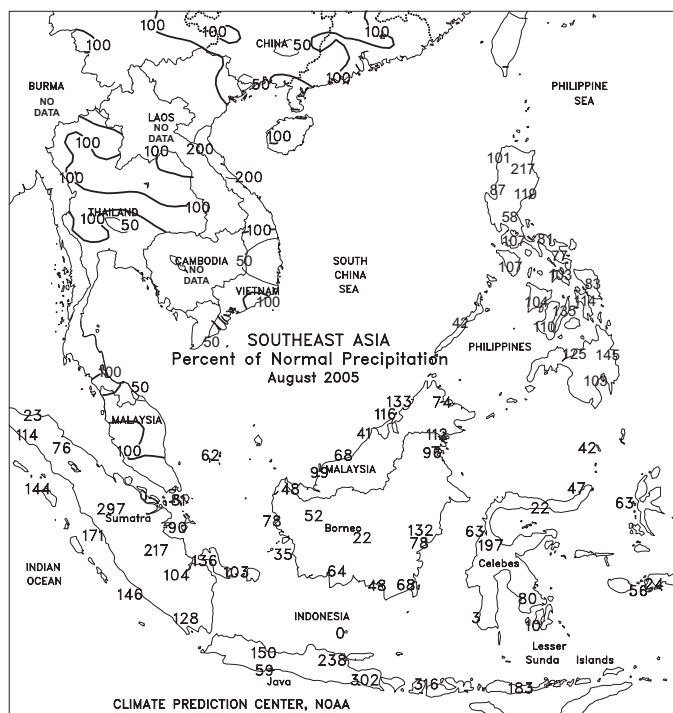
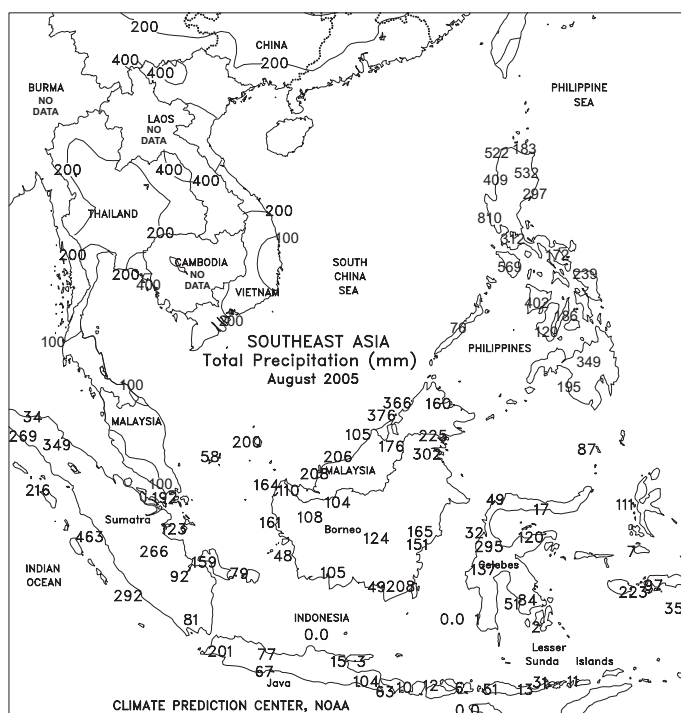




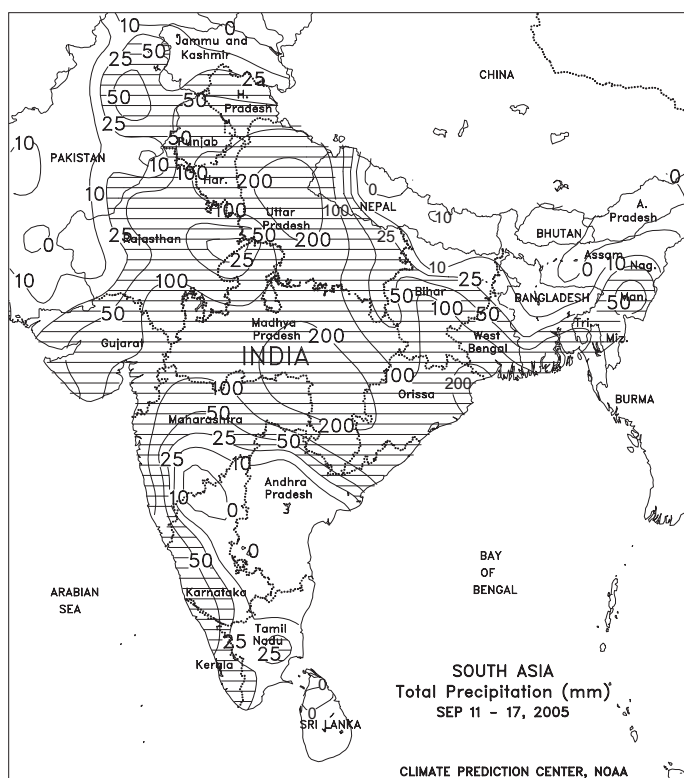
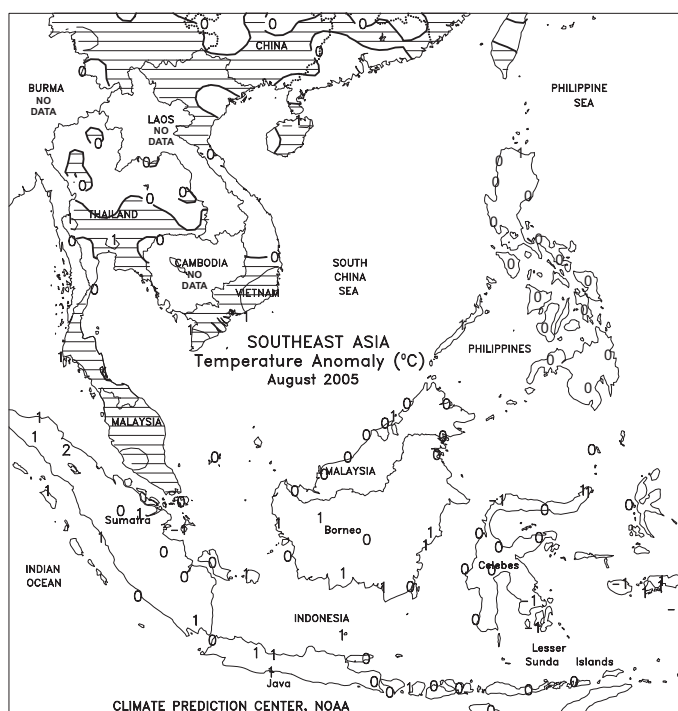
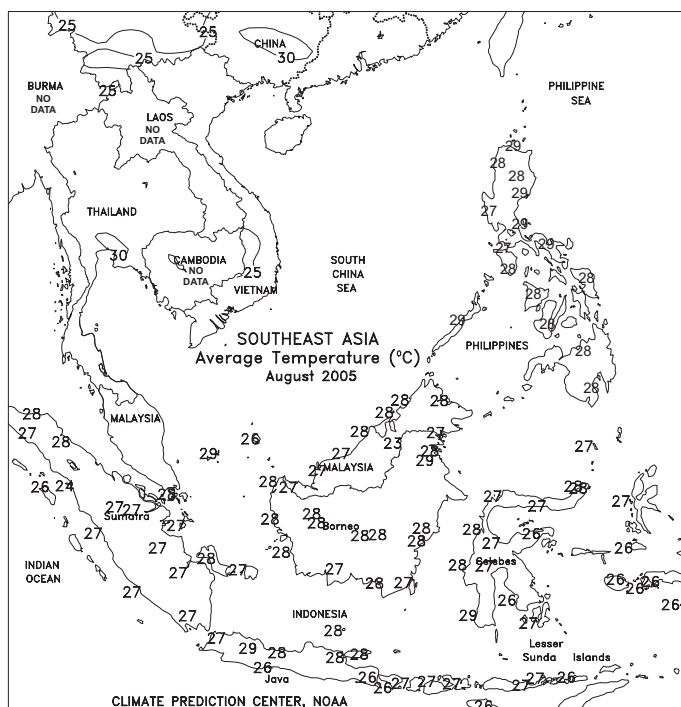


## SOUTHEAST ASIA

Heavy monsoon showers (100-200 mm or more) brought excessive moisture and flooding to southern Thailand, while lighter showers (50-100 mm) continued to increase reservoir levels and boost moisture supplies for immature rice. Widespread showers (25-100 mm, locally more) from Tropical Storm Vicente increased irrigation supplies for immature 10<sup>th</sup> month rice in Vietnam, while heavy rain (100-200 mm) caused flooding in coffee areas of central Vietnam. Widespread monsoon showers (25-100 mm) in the Philippines continued to increase reservoir levels, while rainfall in excess of 200 mm along the northeast likely caused flooding in major corn and rice areas. Rain (50-200 mm) throughout oil palm areas of Sumatra maintained moisture levels but likely slowed harvesting, while dry weather prevailed in oil palm areas of Malaysia. In August, near-normal rainfall in Thailand increased reservoir levels and moisture supplies for rice, while mostly dry weather aided corn maturation in southern areas. Above-normal rainfall in northern and central Vietnam boosted moisture supplies for rice, but likely caused flooding in central coffee areas. Typhoon Sanvu brought heavy showers and flooding to the northern Philippines, likely damaging corn and rice. Near- to above-normal rainfall prevailed throughout the rest of the Philippines, benefiting corn and rice. In oil palm areas of Malaysia and Sumatra, well-above-normal rainfall produced flooding, delayed harvesting, and likely reduced crop prospects.

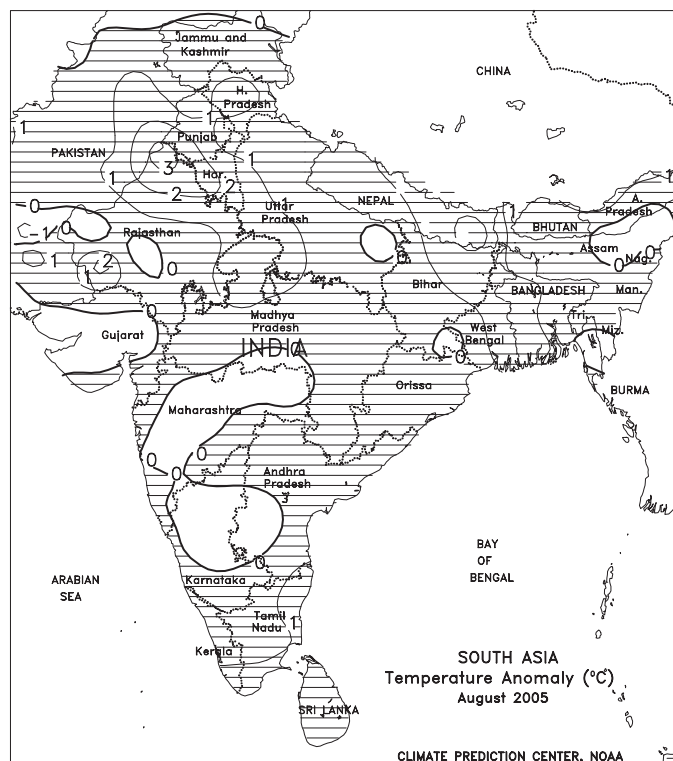
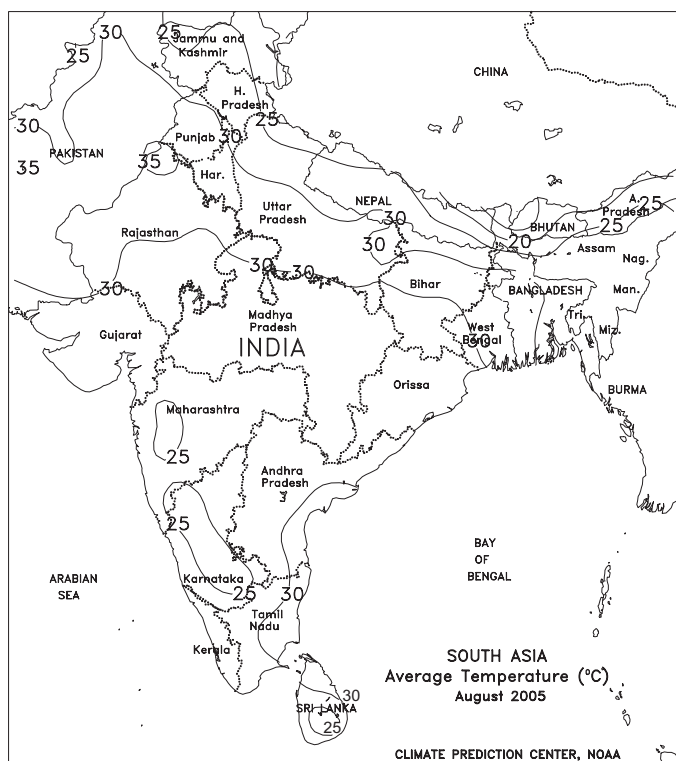
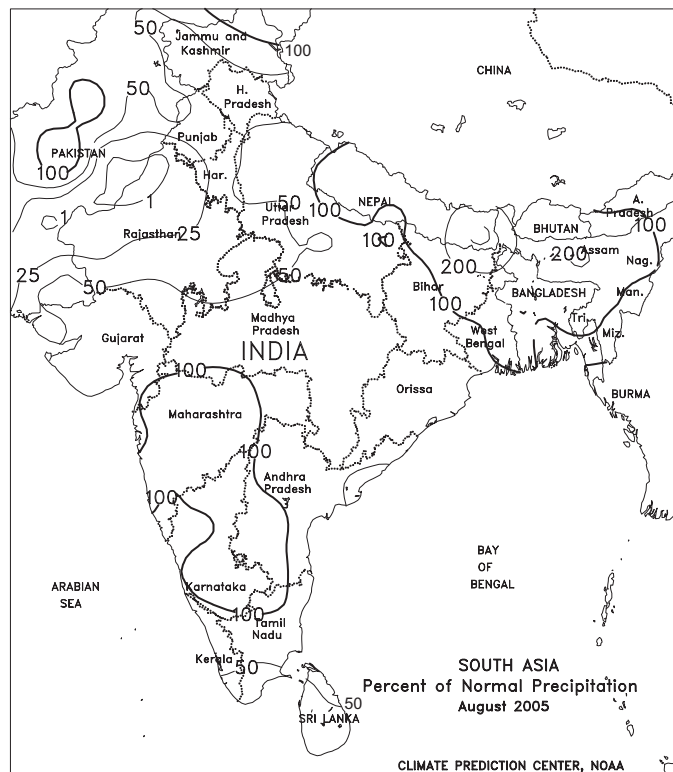
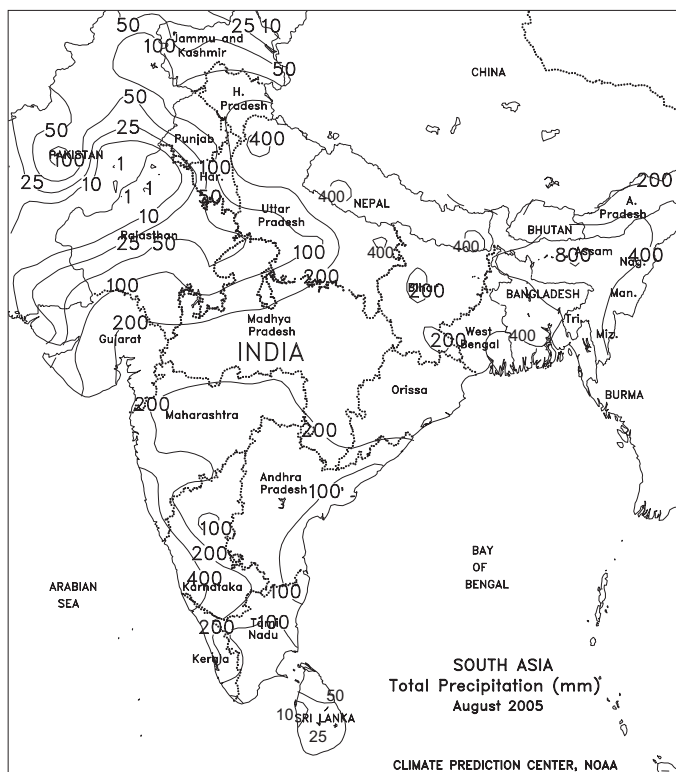


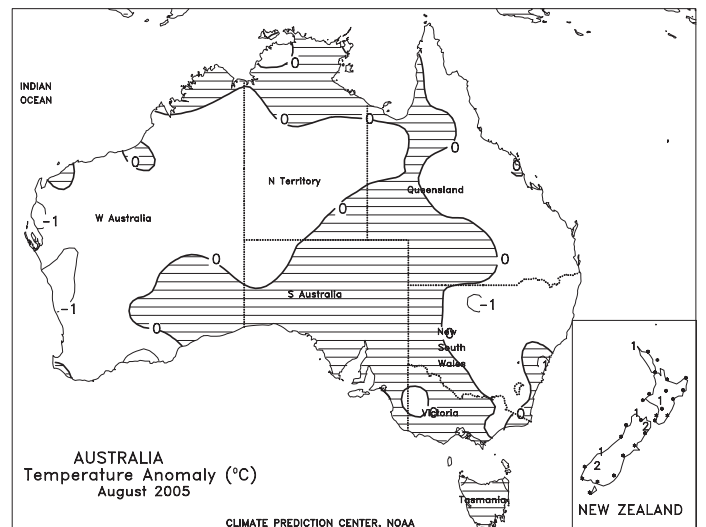
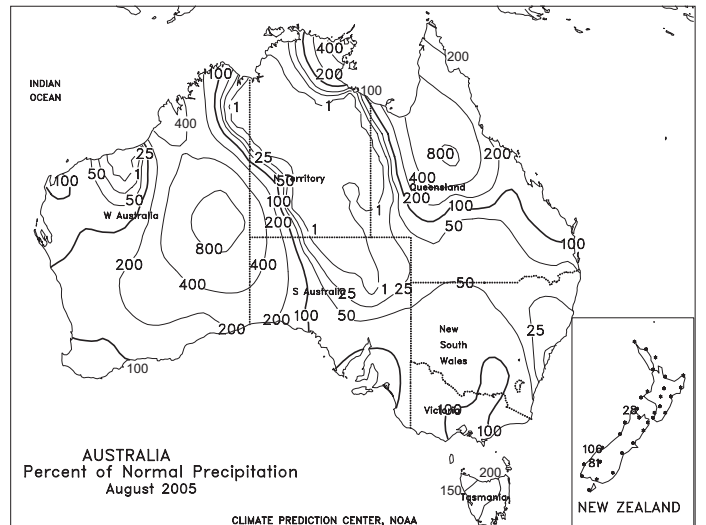
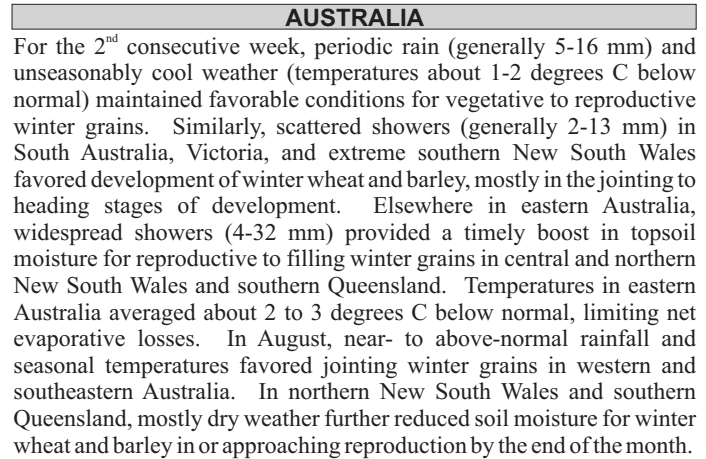


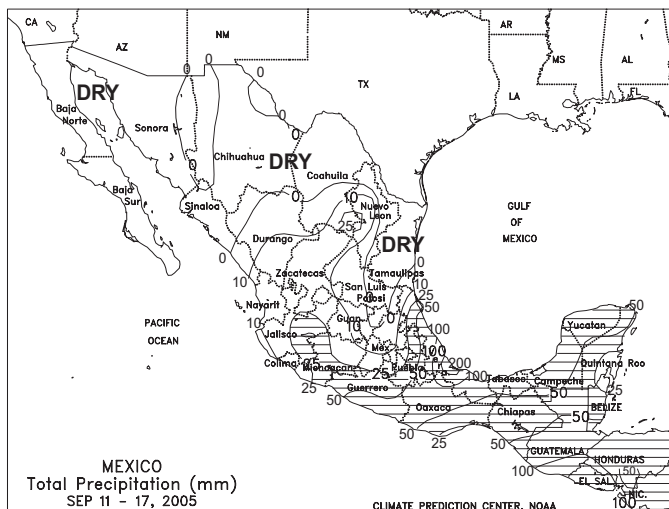


### SOUTH ASIA

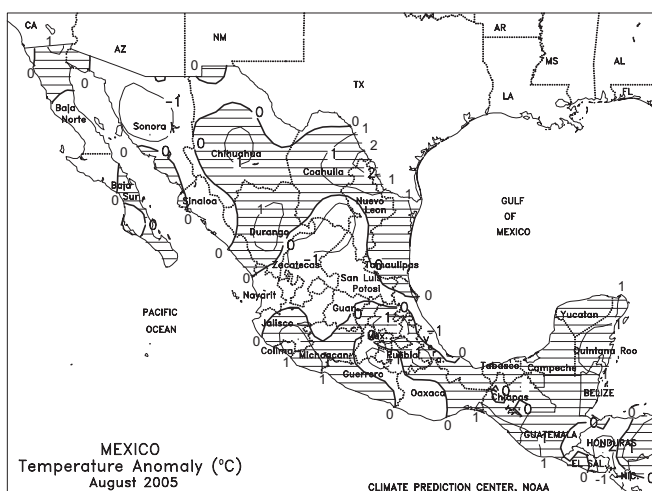
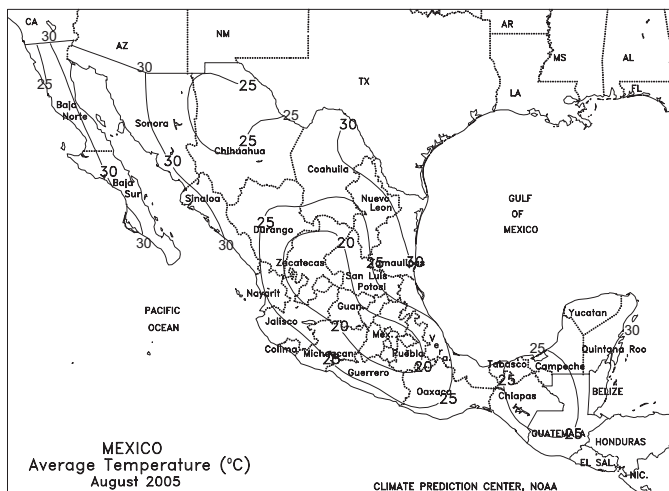
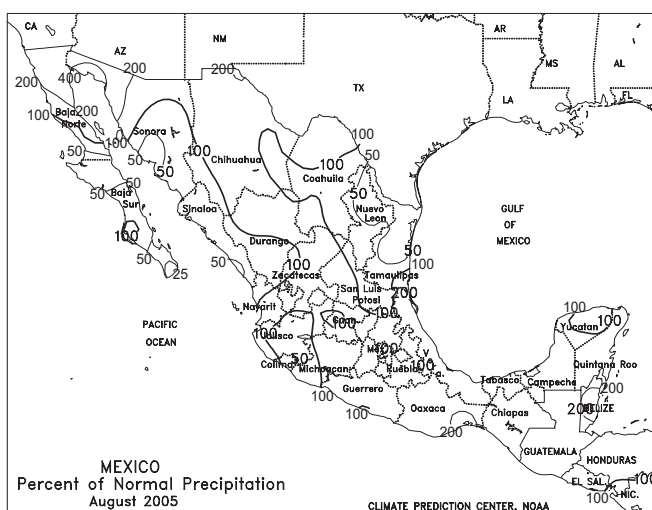
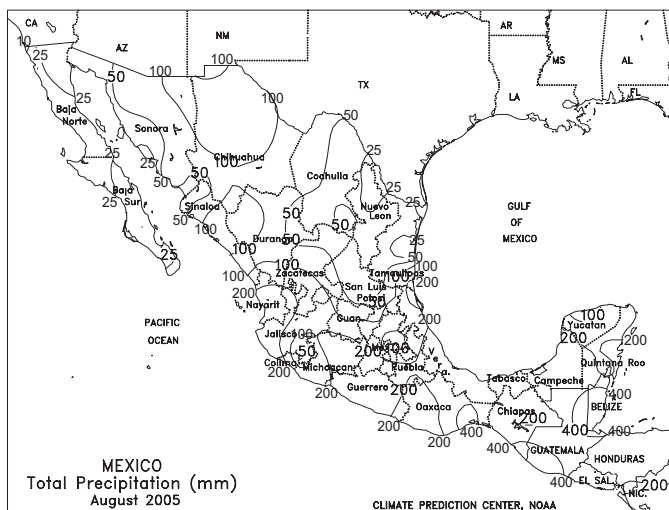
A resurgent monsoon coupled with a pair of tropical disturbances brought heavy rain to central and northern India, while drier weather returned to southern growing areas. In Gujarat, a weak but moisture-laden tropical disturbance triggered locally heavy showers and thunderstorms (50-100 mm) across major groundnut areas, likely causing local damage to low-standing crops. The Agricultural Meteorological Division of the India Meteorological Department reported most of the cotton crop was still in the boll formation stage as of September 15, reducing the risk of damage to open bolls. However, early planted cotton in Punjab and Haryana may have reached the open boll stage of development, making it susceptible to damage from the recent heavy rain. Meanwhile, locally heavy monsoon showers (50-375 mm) across northern portions of India and Pakistan boosted moisture reserves and conditioned fields for winter grain planting, which typically begins in October. Farther east, a second, unnamed tropical storm brought locally heavy rain (60-280 mm) to India's primary rice areas (West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, and eastern Madhya Pradesh), causing local flooding but boosting moisture reserves. In Bangladesh and northeastern India, light to moderate showers (8-80 mm) maintained adequate topsoil moisture for main-season rice. Across southern India, dry weather favored vegetative cotton and groundnuts following last week's heavy rain. In August, below-normal rainfall increased stress on vegetative corn and soybeans across much of central and northern India. In Bangladesh and northeastern India, heavy rain maintained adequate to excessive moisture supplies for main-season rice, while showers in southern India improved prospects for vegetative summer crops. In Pakistan, early-month rain was followed by a 3-week period of unfavorably dry weather, reducing topsoil moisture and increasing irrigation demands.



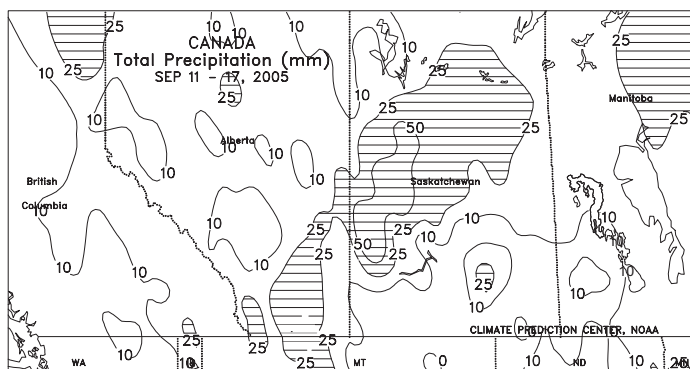


**MEXICO**

Scattered showers (10-25 mm or more) benefited immature corn and other summer crops across the southern plateau and the southeast. In contrast, warmer-than-normal (temperatures averaging 2-3 degrees C above normal) weather dominated much of the north, and rainfall was generally scattered and light (isolated amounts greater than 25 mm). In August, near- to above-normal rainfall benefited late-planted corn and other summer crops across the southern plateau and the southeast. Monsoon showers also fell throughout the northwest, but warmer- and drier-weather dominated the northeast.

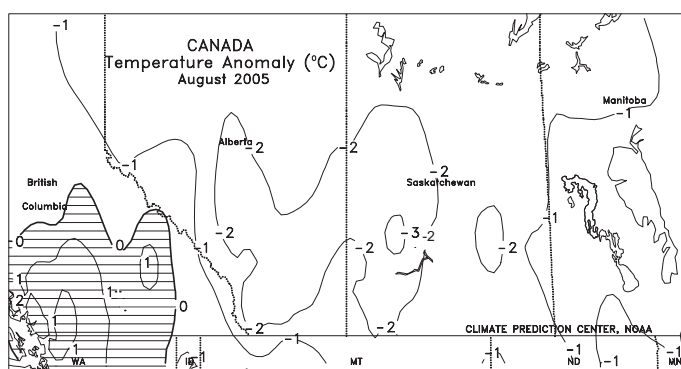
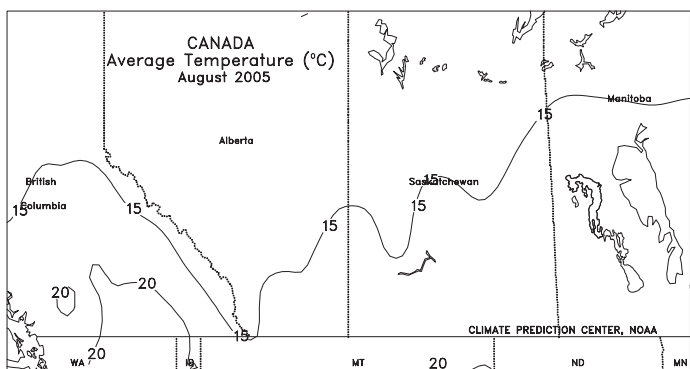
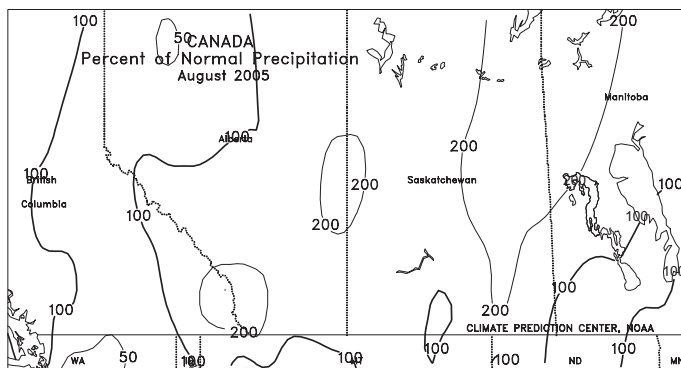
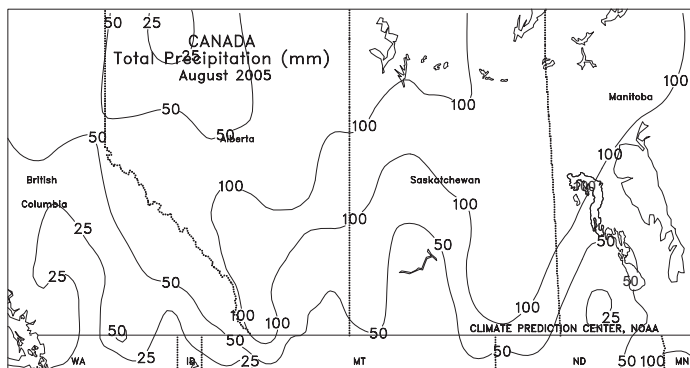






## CANADA

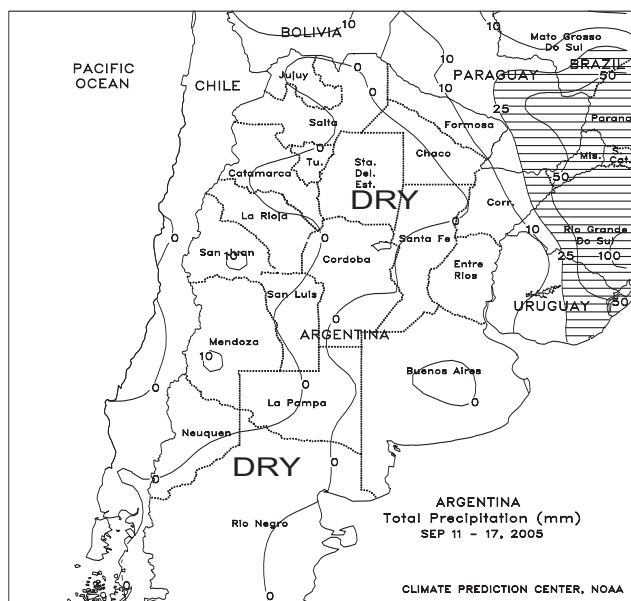
Soaking rains (25-50 mm or more) lingered over the western Prairies early in the week, causing local flooding and lodging of unharvested spring grains and oilseeds. Like the previous week, the heaviest rain was concentrated over southern Alberta and parts of western Saskatchewan. Scattered, mostly light showers (3-25 mm) caused minor fieldwork delays elsewhere in Alberta and Manitoba's Red River Valley, but mostly favorable harvest weather continued for the second week in southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C below normal from Alberta to western Manitoba, with lows generally ranging from 0 to 3 degrees C. A widespread, killing freeze would be welcome across the western Prairies for drydown and harvesting of spring grains and oilseeds. In eastern Canada, mild, showery weather (temperatures averaging 3-5 degrees C above normal, with precipitation of 5-25 mm or more) increased topsoil moisture for winter wheat and pastures in eastern Ontario and Quebec. Mostly dry weather aided maturation of corn and soybeans in southwestern Ontario, but rain is needed for winter wheat germination. During August, cool, showery weather slowed maturation and early harvesting of Prairie spring grains and oilseeds, and raised concerns over crop quality. Unlike last year, however, no significant early freeze was recorded. Warmer- and drier-than-normal weather, with occasional heat, hastened maturation of corn and soybeans in key growing areas of southern Ontario. Warm, showery weather maintained moisture reserves for agriculture in Quebec and Ontario's eastern growing areas, with heavy rain from the remnants of Hurricane Katrina disrupting haying and other fieldwork at month's end.



## BRAZIL

Mostly dry weather aided the final stages of the 2004/05 coffee harvest which, according to independent analyst Safras e Mercado, was 96 percent finished as of September 12. However, scattered showers (greater than 10 mm) continued across a portion of the center-west region (Rondonia to southwestern Minas Gerais), increasing moisture for germination of soybeans and other summer crops and possibly triggering flowering of 2005/06 coffee. Light rain (5-10 mm, only locally exceeding 25 mm) allowed fieldwork to progress in sugarcane and cocoa areas along the northeast coast. In contrast, heavy rain (25-50 mm or more) covered key winter wheat areas of southern Brazil (Parana and Rio Grande do Sul), maintaining moisture levels for immature southern crops but disrupting harvesting in the more northerly growing areas. Heaviest rainfall (greater than 100 mm) was generally confined to the eastern and southern edges of the wheat but likely causing only local flooding and lodging. Temperatures averaged 2 to 7 degrees C below normal in the wheat belt, but lows stayed well above freezing. Throughout August, warm, mostly dry weather promoted rapid coffee harvesting in major production areas of central Brazil. In southern Brazil, unseasonably heavy rain the latter part of August boosted topsoil moisture for immature winter wheat but hampered harvesting in the more northerly growing areas.





### ARGENTINA

A region-wide outbreak of cool (averaging 3-5 degrees C below normal), dry weather slowed winter wheat development and germination of newly planted summer crops and likely resulted in some freeze damage to vulnerable grains and oilseeds. Sub-freezing temperatures extended as far north as Santiago del Estero, possibly necessitating local replanting of early-sown sunflowers. In addition, temperatures reached -2 degrees C in Cordoba and Santa Fe, raising concern for heading winter wheat. Argentina's Agricultural Secretariat (SAGPyA) confirmed that some crops in northern and central Argentina were exposed to potential freeze damage and assessments were underway. Rainfall will be needed throughout the region in upcoming weeks as the pace of summer grain and oilseed planting increases. According to SAGPyA, delays in sunflower planting were reported in some of the more northerly areas due to dryness. In August, near- to above-normal rainfall increased moisture reserves for winter wheat, especially in eastern growing areas that received more than 25 mm. In La Pampa and Cordoba, rainfall was generally lighter, but in locations with heavier rain, the moisture likely came too late to spur additional wheat planting. In contrast, rainfall was sparse in northern growing areas, eventually slowing planting of sunflowers and other early-sown summer crops.

